



REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL
Tuesday May 25, 2010
MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER at 10:04 AM
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April, 2010 by Consensus.
- MANUAL COMMITTEE – The Manual Committee report was moved up in the agenda with consent of the members present. Noelle Kester, Chair, circulated a membership information list and asked members to update or add information as needed. This is the first step in updating the RCCC Membership manual.
- GUEST PRESENTATION: The World Trade Center – Connections Project was presented (including a PowerPoint) by Joel Roberts, PATH (LA); Jennette Lawrence, Family Health Centers(SD). In response to a RFP released by the San Diego Housing Commission, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) was selected as the by a proposal review committee for development and operation of a Downtown Homeless Housing and Services Center.

PATH, Alpha, and the San Diego Police Department HOT conducted outreach and surveys on May 17th and 18th in ¼ mile radius of the proposed World trade Center site. Approximately 246 were counted in a “windshield count” on day one of the outreach, generating an estimate of 300 homeless persons in the ¼ mile radius. Surveys included 36 questions identifying factors, respondents were offered \$5 Subway gift cards as an incentive for their cooperation. Of the 43 surveys attempted, 38 interviews were completed. Summary Results include:

- 93% reported that they have been homeless only in SD
 - average length of time in SD was 19 years;
 - the average length of time homeless was 3.85 years. (raw data: 6 less than 1 year; 13 less than 2 years; 13 were 3-5 years; 6 were 9-20 years).
 - 45% of the survey sample were female
 - 66% report a serious health condition; 45% with no health insurance.
 - 42% abuse drugs and alcohol.
 - 50% dealing with mental health conditions
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- The PATH Connections Project includes 75 units of permanent supportive housing (73 available to clients, 2 reserved for residential staff); 150 beds of interim housing providing stays from one day to two years or more (no predetermined length of stay).
 - Project also includes a full service health clinic, a “Mall” of out-stationed services such as Social Security; legal aid; homeless court; etc.
 - Employs the “Housing First” model – a best practice intervention for chronic homeless persons

Joel and Jennette responded to a variety of questions and concerns from the RCCC membership in an extended question and answer period. Some of the issues included the frosting of windows that reduce visibility from the services floor; the initial expectations for a downtown intake and year-round shelter project; overall reduced capacity to move people off the streets if the winter shelters and Neil Good close; assumption that results will be similar to New York given the differences in resources available in Times Square vs. San Diego; a need to better understand and not diminish the existing expertise and services in the SD community; etc.

The project is still developing and design features and funding sources are changing. The Housing Commission and PATH/ FHC hope to receive approval from Land Use and Planning and the City Council to enter exclusive negotiations in July.

- **STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

- *AMIKAS* On May 20th, the Steering Committee received a presentation by Katheryn Rhodes on a proposal for use of the Midway Post Office for homeless housing. The site has 436,000 sq. feet of buildings on over 26 acres. Amikas has attempted to access the site under Mc Kinney-Vento provisions for surplus federal property. Since the property is owned by the US Postal Service it is independent from that classification. After discussion of some of the complex issues involved in potential use of the property, the Steering Committee offered to work with Amikas to share the expertise of the group in considering this project. Amikas is applauded for their interest and willingness to actively advocate on behalf of homeless persons in our community.
- *LeSar Consultants* will present the 100,000 Homes Initiative and the Vulnerability Study to the Steering group on May 27th. All members of the RCCC are, as always, invited to attend. The presentation will be at 11:30 AM at HCD (3989 Ruffin Road) on that date.
- *SHP Annual Process: HIC, PITC, HDX update:* The County will submit the Housing Inventory Count and Point In Time Counts via the electronic HUD Data Exchange (HDX) on Thursday May 27th. Both the City and County reports must be submitted no later than May 30th. The Regional Task Force (RTFH) HMIS staff and Steering Committee members are still reconciling the forms with raw data, and are in communication with HUD regarding components of HDX that appear to have difficulties. Members should watch for a notice for submission of the Intent to Submit form for new projects and projects that have not yet been awarded from the 20098 round.
- *HEARTH Act update: ESG, CoC Proposed Definition Feedback:* – Tricia Levien, CSH. In April the RCCC agreed to review and provide comments to HUD regarding the proposed definitions for Emergency Shelter (Solutions) Grants (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC – SHP) programs. In addition to the comments reviewed by the full group in April, the Steering Committee received requests to include two additional concerns in the letter. The Steering Committee recommends including the additional items identified by RCCC members, listed below:

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHY) defines youth as up to age 24, recommend ESG / CoC definitions are consistent.
- Recommend that the annual PITC “at risk” be taken from administrative records – perhaps by identifying high risk /vulnerable characteristics

RCCC members approved inclusion of these items by consensus. The feedback will be presented to HUD prior to the June deadline.

- **SUBCOMMITTEE and LIAISON REPORTS**

- *Legislative Committee* – Rosemary Johnston.
Action Item: The RCCC approved Rosemary as the Sub-Committee Chair to draft and submit a letter of concern to the State.

The legislative report was distributed electronically. Highlights include:
Congress is considering legislation that would fund the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) and extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), H.R. 4213, the "tax extender bill," would provide \$1 billion for the NHTF and an additional \$65 million for project-based vouchers to be released in conjunction with capital grants. In addition, the legislation would include a one-year, \$2.5 billion extension of the TANF ECF, which was created under the Recovery Act and is set to expire on September 30. The bill would also continue incentives for investors to support affordable housing development under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

Other federal legislation: H.R. 5285, the Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2010 would authorize grants for state and local activities for the education of homeless children and youth. **Department of Labor (DoL)** announced the release of a solicitation for \$5 million in grants to help **reintegrate homeless female veterans and veterans with families** into the labor force. **HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Holds Hearing** on Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriations. Numerous programs impacting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including funding for the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act** and services in supportive housing within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), were discussed.

HUD released its strategic plan for FY10-FY15 Notably, the plan raises HUD residents to the number-one stakeholder position, elevates the need to create and preserve affordable rental housing to a position of importance, and frequently refers to the importance of “ensuring choice and opportunity for all people”. HUD’s new vision statement, speaks specifically to residents: “For Our Residents: We will improve lives by creating affordable homes in safe, healthy communities of opportunity, and by protecting the rights and affirming the values of a diverse society.”

The plan has five core goals: strengthening the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meeting the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilizing housing as a platform for improving the quality of life; building

inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transforming the way HUD does business. Each goal has a number of subgoals and a list of strategies. More information on these will be provided in June.

HUD's new mission statement is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. HUD remarks that this mission statement returns the agency to the Housing Act of 1949's directive to create "a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family."

- *Data Governance* – Notes from the initial meeting of the DGC were displayed and brief summary provided. Officers for the group were selected with Craig Jones as Chair. By agreement, the Committee is required to meet at least quarterly but will be meeting monthly over the next few months.
- *Rating and Ranking* – Holly Youngmans. The subgroup met and determined that in light of HUD changes, that the committee should be renamed Rating and Review (which still preserves the R & R designation). The Steering Group Concur. The RCC did not voice objection to this change. The R & R are waiting for the release of more program information from HUD prior to the development of more specific R & R recommendations. One note, however, is that HUD clearly is emphasizing data and that emphasis will be reflected on the local level.
- *Housing Liaisons* – HOC HIV – Hannah Cohen / Patti Hamic Christensen. The annual awards celebration of the SD Housing Federation is rapidly approaching. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

- ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 29th
10:00 – 11:30 AM

National University
9388 Lightwave Ave
San Diego, CA, 92123